

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) A packaging and dispensing device (1, 101) for a liquid or semi-liquid product, said device comprising:

a reservoir (2, 102),

an ejection assembly (5, 105) supported on a wall (4, 104) of said reservoir and equipped with an actuating member (7, 9, 19, 107, 109, 117) emerging from a centrally located opening on top of said reservoir, said actuating member comprising a movable push-button (19) which is manually depressible ~~adapted to move~~ in a vertical actuating direction (Z) in order to eject a quantity of said liquid or semi-liquid product from said reservoir through a passage (45) in said actuating member, said vertical actuating direction (Z) being vertically aligned with said actuating member along a central axis of the reservoir,

a connecting member (23, 31, 30, 123, 131) having:

- a first end (23) connected to said actuating member, ~~and~~

- a second end (30) connected to an outlet member (24, 29), and

- a flexible tube (31, 131) between said first and second ends, which ~~is said connecting member~~ is deformable ~~over at least part of its length (31)~~ between said first and second ends and is adapted to conduct said quantity of the liquid or semi-liquid product to said outlet member without transmitting substantial force to said outlet member, wherein:

said outlet member being connected fixedly to said reservoir and comprising an outlet opening to dispense said quantity of product, ~~wherein,~~

~~starting from at least one of said ends, said connecting member has at least one end portion (23, 30, 31a, 31e) diverging from~~ the first end of the connecting member connected to the actuating member extends in a direction different from a direction in which the second end of the connecting member connected to the outlet member extends, and at least one of the first and second ends does not extend in the same direction of a vertical flat ~~band plane, designated as zone (B),~~ containing a geometric line directly connecting said actuating member (7, 9, 19, 107, 109, 117) and said outlet member (24, 29), and

~~wherein~~ said vertical flat ~~band~~ plane extends in said vertical actuating direction (Z).

14. (cancelled)

15. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 14, wherein said connecting member comprises at least one male or female connector (23, 30) fixed to at least one of said actuating member (7, 107) and said outlet member (24) and is adapted to be coupled in a sealed manner to said flexible tube, said connector member is adapted to form an angle with a ~~geometric~~ the vertical plane ~~(P) containing said zone (B).~~

16. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 15, wherein said angle is greater than 30°.

17. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said connecting member, between said first and second ends, extends essentially on just one side with respect to a ~~geometric~~ the vertical plane ~~(P) containing said zone (B).~~

18. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 13, wherein at least one (23) of said ends of the connecting member is oriented in such a way as to diverge from the opposite end (30) of said connecting member.

19. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 13, wherein said reservoir (2, 102) has an overall shape that is non-circular in horizontal section.

20. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 19, wherein said reservoir has, in horizontal section, a maximum dimension in a direction intersecting ~~a geometric~~ the vertical plane ~~(P) containing said zone (B).~~

21. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 13, comprising a rigid cap (10, 11, 12, 111, 112) mounted on said reservoir in such a way as to enclose said actuating member and said connecting member between a wall (12, 112) of said cap and said wall (4, 104) of the reservoir supporting the ejection assembly (5, 105), said ~~actuating member (7, 107) comprising a moving~~ movable push-button (17, 117) is guided vertically through said wall of the cap.

22. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said movable push-button (17, 117) has a pressing surface accessible from the outside of said cap, said pressing surface being more or less aligned with an external surface (12, 112) of said cap when said movable push-button is in a rest position.

23. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said actuating member comprises a hollow pump rod (107) and a transmission rod (109) attached between said push-button (117) and said hollow pump rod, an intermediate wall (44) being arranged between said rigid cap (112) and said wall of the reservoir (104), said transmission rod (109) being guided through said intermediate wall.

24. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 21, wherein said outlet member comprises a nozzle support (24) fixed to said rigid cap (11, 111) and a spray nozzle (29) fixed to said nozzle support.

25. (previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 16, wherein said angle is greater than 30° and less than or equal to 90°.

26. (currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 20, wherein said reservoir has, in horizontal section, a maximum dimension in a direction intersecting ~~a geometric the~~ vertical plane ~~(P) containing said zone (B)~~, at right angles.

27-31. (cancelled)

32. (new) A device for storing and dispensing a liquid or semi-liquid product, said device comprising:

a housing containing a reservoir adapted to hold the liquid or semi-liquid product;

a manually operable pump fixed to the housing;

a dip-tube extending vertically from a bottom of the pump into the reservoir;

a manually depressible push-button disposed on a top of the pump opposite the dip-tube;

an outlet sleeve extending horizontally from the pump;

a flexible tube having a first and second end, wherein the first end is connected to the horizontal sleeve end extends horizontally from the pump below the push-button; and

a horizontally arranged nozzle fixed to the device and connected to the second end of the flexible tube;

wherein the first end of the flexible tube connected to the horizontal sleeve extends in a direction different from a direction in which the second end of the flexible tube connected to the horizontal nozzle extends.

33. (new) A device for storing and dispensing a liquid or semi-liquid product, said device comprising:

a housing containing a reservoir adapted to hold the liquid or semi-liquid product;

a manually operable pump fixed to the housing;

a dip-tube extending vertically from a bottom of the pump into the reservoir;

a manually depressible push-button disposed on a top of the pump opposite the dip-tube;

an outlet sleeve extending horizontally from the pump;

a flexible tube having a first and second end, wherein the first end is connected to the horizontal sleeve end extends horizontally from the pump below the push-button; and

a horizontally arranged nozzle fixed to the device and connected to the second end of the flexible tube;

wherein the first end of the flexible tube connected to the horizontal sleeve extends in a direction different from a direction in which the second end of the flexible tube connected to the horizontal nozzle extends, and the first end connected to the horizontal sleeve diverges from a vertical flat plane containing a geometric line directly connecting the pump and the nozzle.